

18th August 1925]

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—“ When difficulties are felt by the Imperial Bank, are not the Government taking note of them and giving advice? Cannot the Government give the same advice to all concerned?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ They do not consider that this is a matter in which they should interfere.”

Fisheries.

The purchase of Kruzadai island by Government.

* 56 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when was the Kruzadai island near Pamban purchased by the Government, and at what cost;

(b) what were the objects of the purchase of this island;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of this House the original proposals of Sir F. A. Nicholson, K.C.I.B., for purchasing this island;

(d) what were the conditions of purchase;

(e) how far the original objects of purchasing the island have been realized and what net expenditure has been incurred up to date;

(f) whether any buildings have been erected on the island and if so, at what cost;

(g) whether there were any unauthorized additional buildings constructed while the work was in progress and if so, the extra cost thus incurred;

(h) whether when the additional buildings were being constructed, the question of retention of the Marine Biologist had been engaging the attention of the Government; if so, whether the action of the officers in constructing them was not highly culpable and what disciplinary action has been taken against the officers concerned;

(i) to what use the island is now put and what annual running charges are incurred at present and whether these uses really justify the maintenance of the island at Government cost;

(j) whether there was any proposal from the Government of India to establish an All-India Biological station at this island and what became of the proposal;

(k) whether it is a fact that the Indian Science Congress and the University of Madras have desired the Government to hand over this island to them for carrying on research work and what action has been taken thereon; and

(l) whether the Government have received any other offers for the purchase of this island?

A.—(a), (b), (e) & (f) The hon. Member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 420 at the meeting of the Council on the 5th March 1925.

(c) No.

(d) None.

(g) No unauthorized additional buildings were constructed. Certain improvements not provided for in the original estimates were carried out in anticipation of the sanction of Government at an additional cost of Rs. 1,350.

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(h) No.

(i) The island is now used mainly as temporary headquarters for the conduct of the Ramnad Chank fishery. The annual running charges incurred are small and are covered by the receipts from the coconut trees, etc., and the lease of the right of collecting cowries.

(j) No.

(k) The University of Madras have, at the instance of the Indian Science Congress, asked that a marine biological station may be maintained by Government on the island for the use of students and biologists, the University making a contribution to Government towards the expenses of the station. The matter is under consideration.

(l) Yes.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Development whether improvements made by any subordinate of the department without sanction are not to be considered as unauthorized ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" There was no alteration, but only improvements, and, in the special circumstances of the case, the Government sanctioned them. "

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" So, shall I take it that the improvements which were carried out were all unauthorized ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Yes, that is so. "



The economic effect of the Empire Exhibition on Indian industry.

* 57 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the economic effect of the Empire Exhibition on the manufactures and industries of India and Madras Presidency in particular ;

(b) whether any of the exhibitors have found new demands and new markets for their wares, and if so, to what extent in the year 1924-25 ; and

(c) whether foreign countries have come to know what we want as a result of the exhibition and are sending such articles to India and competing with Indian manufacturers to the prejudice of the latter ?

A.—(a) & (b) It is not yet possible to gauge the ultimate results of the exhibition. Information as to sales, enquiries and orders at the time of the exhibition is contained in G.O. No. 377, Development, dated 12th March 1925. No information is available as to subsequent business by exhibitors.

(c) The aim of the exhibition was to demonstrate what India can supply and not what she requires. The Government have no information which would warrant the assumption that foreign countries as a result of the exhibition are competing with Indian manufacturers to the prejudice of the latter.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHEITIYAR :—" Is the hon. the Minister aware that the Indian Court at Wembley was a mere bazaar of cheap and shoddy shops and with no connexion with Indian art at all ? "